

### NAACP Prexy Speaks Out Against Strike

Bernard Hamilton, President of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP announced a change of location for the branch's Freedom Fund Banquet. In view of the present labor condition, the event originally scheduled at the Frontier Hotel, is now being held at the Riviera Hotel, Saturday, May 19, at 7 p.m.

Hamilton also commented about the current hotel strike—the worst in Las Vegas history. "The long, costly strike should be brought to an end so that increasing damage to the Las Vegas economy will

cease. This strike, costing one million dollars a day, is hurting all of Las Vegas and causes twice the harm for the Black community, said Hamilton.

"Our struggle for jobs and fairness with the gaming and other industries in Nevada, in particular Las Vegas, is not a new one. Over the years the NAACP has consistently brought to the attention of the industries our concern for equality in the job market," he continued. "Our cries for equality have not been heard by the industry. Support from labor

unions in our struggle could have been much better. The Las Vegas Branch in 1977 obtained a Consent Decree, yet this decree has not been enforced as we would have liked."

## Greater Votes, Greater Power

### Federal Judge Ponders Professor Pitts Suit

A sex and race discrimination suit against UNLV officials was dismissed Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Roger Foley, who said the case was moot because Dr. Ruth Lee Pitts no longer works at the university. Pitts, a black female, filed the lawsuit in April 1980, claiming there was a conspiracy to deprive her request for tenure and her advancement to associate professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education. She was terminated as of May 31, 1983. Pitts had asked to be reinstated to her job, but she did not ask for damages.

A federal judge is considering whether to dismiss a sex and discrimination suit filed by a black professor at UNLV against the university system.

Ruth Pitts, a former associate professor of education, contends she was discriminated against on the basis of race and sex, paid a lower salary than comparable employees, and eventually transferred

#### Int'l. Jugglers' Assn. Workshops

The Jugglers Are Coming! Over 1,000 jugglers are expected to assemble from all over the world for the International Jugglers' Association (IJA) annual convention to be held in Las Vegas from July 16-22 at the Showboat. From May 7-11 an instructional team, headed by Dave Finnigan, the Education Director of the Association, will be presenting free programs in public schools and recreation centers to help develop local interest in the convention.

against her wishes from the department of higher education to the department of curricular instruction.

The university terminated her contract in 1983.

During a hearing before U.S. District Judge Roger Foley Wednesday, the attorney for the University of Nevada argued that the Pitts suit was moot in light of the 1983 termination.

University general counsel Donald Klasic argued that the Pitts suit seeks a declaratory judgment regarding her salary and her departmental transfer making no mention of damages. Since Pitts was terminated and the facts of her employment status have changed, the remedies she seeks are no longer viable, Klasic said.

Pitts' attorney, Ira Hecht, differed, arguing that if the court finds her transfer was unlawful it could put the former in-

structor back in her 1979 job. Hecht added that if the transfer was illegal, then the university's subsequent decision to terminate her would clearly be unlawful.

Foley took the university's request for a motion of summary judgment under submission.

Hecht also charged that the university's decision to pursue the motion of summary judgment was improperly brought just two weeks before the case was scheduled to go to trial and well over three years after the original lawsuit had been filed.

Klasic later argued that Pitts served out her 7-year probationary period, which ran from 1976-83, and was given one year's notice that she would not be retained.

Pitts came to UNLV as an assistant professor of educational administration in 1976.

### Blacks seeking more influence in state economic development

NO. LAS VEGAS—The Commission on Economic Development repeatedly heard from influential members of the black community, who want more influence in state economic development, according to a Las Vegas Sun report.

The commission was told by a member of the Association for Economic Development, George Ormiston, that an ad hoc committee has been formed to assist in the completion of the 10-year project.

Andy Grose, Gov. Richard Bryan's chief of staff, told committee members they would be pleased with eventual results, which brought unfavorable responses from both Assembly-

man Gene Collins and the Rev. Ted Cuveston, of Operation PUSH.

Collins told CED chairman Lt. Gov. Robert Cashell that "the black community is being left out of economic development."

Rev. Cuveston claimed "we're the victims of misuse when it comes to economic development."

Commission members, Dr. Jack Davis and Cesar Martinez, who brought up the issue of minorities participating, joined the entire commission in assuring the black leaders they would not miss participation.

The commission also rejected Angermann, Inc.'s proposal for European representation at a cost of \$66,000.

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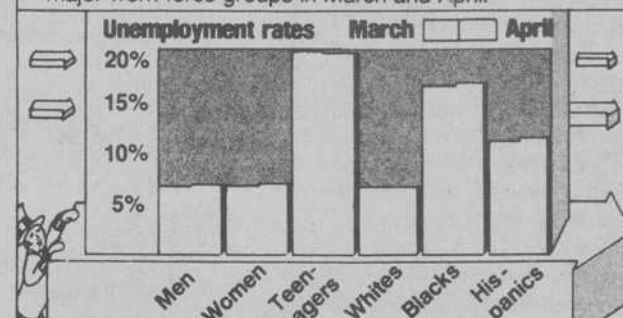


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### Unemployment steady

The USA's overall civilian unemployment rate for April was 7.8%, unchanged for the third month in a row, the government said Friday. Here are unemployment rates for major work force groups in March and April:



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

By Dale Glasgow, USA TODAY